PATENT CLAIMS

1. A method for the removal of mercury from a dilute aqueous solution of sulphuric acid, **characterised in that** an aqueous solution of thiosulphate alkali metal compound is fed into a solution of sulphuric acid with an acid content of 35 – 45 wt % and an Hg content of at least 1 g/l at a molar ratio corresponding to a maximum of one time the amount of mercury dissolved in the acid solution, so that the mercury reacts with the thiosulphate, precipitating the mercury that is in solution.

2. A method according to claim 1, **characterised in that** mercury is precipitated as mercury sulphide HgS.

3. A method according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the aqueous solution of sulphuric acid contains chloride ions, so that the mercury is in solution as mercury chloride.

4. A method according to claim 3, **characterised in that** an aqueous solution of thiosulphate alkali metal compound is fed into a solution of sulphuric acid at a molar ratio that corresponds to a maximum of 0.67 times the amount of mercury dissolved in the acidic solution.

5. A method according to claim 3, **characterised in that** in a chloride environment mercury is recovered as a double salt $2HgS \cdot HgCl_2$.

6. A method according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the thiosulphate alkali compound is sodium thiosulphate, $Na_2S_2O_3 \cdot 5H_2O$.

7. A method according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the precipitated mercury sediment is recovered by filtration.